A Scriptural

CHRONICLE

OF

Satans Incendiaries,

VIZ. { *Hard-hearted Perſecutors,* AND *Malicious Informers.*

With their *Work*, *Wages*, and *Ends*, who were Inſtruments of Cruelty againſt true Worſhippers.

Collected by *Charles Harriſs.*

Iſa 33. 1. *Wo to thee that ſpoileſt, and thou waſt not ſpiled, &c.*

And Chap. 25. 11 — *And he ſhall bring down their Pride, together with the Spoils of their Hands.*

Matth. 23. 32. *Fill ye up then the Meaſure of your Fathers.*

Verſe 33. *Ye Serpents, ye Generation of Vipers, how can ye eſcape the Damnation of Hell.*

Printed in the Year, 17

Calculus Secundarius.

A Scriptural Chronicle.

THis may ſerve as a Touch-ſtone for all Perſecutors to be tryed by, who profeſs the holy Scripture to be their Rule; that ſo all may ſee whoſe ſteps they tread in, whoſe work they are doing, and whoſe Rule they walk by; and what is the reward they may expect in the end.

THe Devil was and is the Maſter of Envy and Murder; and *Cain* was one of his Children, and learned of his father, the Author of wickedneſs, to be a Perſecutor about Religion, and ſlew righteous *Abel*, becauſe, his own works were evil, and *Abels* were perfect; and for doing this wicked act of Murder the Lord pronounced him accurſed: And the Curſe ſtill hangs over the heads of all ſuch who walk by *Cains* rule, and tread in his ſteps of Murder about Religion.

Alſo juſt *Lot* was perſecuted by the *Sodomites*, becauſe he was a Righteous man, and entertained the Angel of God; & although the Meeting was ſo ſmall, that there was but two beſides his own Family, yet the *Sodomites* gathered together both young and old, and beſet his houſe, and endeavoured to break the door, thinking to abuſe or murder Gods Miniſters that were ſent to call *Lot* out of *Sodom*; ſo that people may ſee how the *Sodomites* formerly were unwilling to let one eſcape out of ſin, they would have all to be wicked like themſelves; & when *Lots* love reacht forth to his Kindred, deſiring them, *to go forth with him & be ſaved*, telling them *how the Judgments of God would come upon them, if they ſtill continued among thoſe wicked people*; and his words ſeemed to them as an idle Tale; but what was the end of thoſe Perſecutors? firſt they were ſmitten with blindneſs (the day of viſitation paſſed over them) & afterwards were conſumed with Fire & Brimſtone: ſo all thoſe that aſſault righteous mens houſes, and break down their doors to perſecute the Servants of God, are ſeen to walk by the *Sodomites* rule.

Alſo *Iſhmael*, he was a Perſecutor, and a Mocker, its ſaid, *His hand was againſt every man, and he was a wilde man*; ſo let all Mockers ſee what Stock and Birth they are of—Alſo *Eſau* was a prophane man, and a Perſecutor, though he was called a Lord, yet

he was a rough ſpirited man, as his Stock are at this day, and threatned to kill *Jacob*, the true Worſhipper; and went on in his envy till a day of Repentance was hid from his eyes, and the Sentence was pronounced, *Becauſe of thy violence againſt thy Brother, ſhame ſhall cover thee, and thou ſhalt be cut off forever.* So all you that tread *Eſaus* ſteps, conſider his end, and what your own is like to be.

Alſo *Pharoah* the King was a wicked Tyrant over the Lord's People; and when the Lord ſent his holy Servants to exhort his People to depart out of *Ægypt*, and to be ſeparate from thoſe uncircumciſed *Heathens*, and come forth, and worſhip him in the beauty of Holineſs; then this *Pharaoh* hardened his heart, and made Laws to oppreſs Gods People, and refuſed to give them liberty to obey the Lord, or to have the free exerciſe of their Conſciences towards him; nevertheleſs, in the end we read they did depart, and gave up to anſwer the mind of God; howbeit, then *Pharaoh* and all his Hoſt, turned perſecutors, indeavouring by violence to hinder them from having their liberty to ſerve the God of their Fathers; but ſtill would have kept them in darkneſs and bondage among the Uncircumciſed, to follow the inventions and worſhip of the Magitians, and Sorcerers, and Hirelings of *Ægypt*; but in due time the Lord wrought deliverance for his People, the true Worſhippers; but the Perſecutors and falſe Worſhippers the Lord overturned with an overflowing Deſtruction: And certainly their end cannot be happy, who follow the *Ægyptians* rule.

Alſo *Jeroboam* and *Ahab* were wicked Kings, and they ſet up falſe Worſhip, and refuſed to walk in the holy Way of God themſelves, but perſecuted them that walked in it; and when the Prophets of the Lord came in love, and warned and reproved them for their falſe Worſhips and Wickedneſs; then they, like unwiſe Kings, counted them their Enemies, and perſecuted them: Even one of the Prophets ſpoke to the King, in the time of his Worſhip; ſo that falſe Worſhippers, as they uſe to do now, cryed *Lay hold on him, for he diſturbs me*; but remember that hand that he ſtretched forth againſt the Prophet was withered; and we ſee it was the manner of the true Prophets, never to flatter Kings in their wickedneſs; for when *Ahab* the

King had taken *Naboths* Free-hold from him, and had caused one more righteous then himself, to be stoned to death; then the good Prophet *Elijah* came to him, to whom the King said, *Hast thou found me out, Oh my ENEMY*; to whom the Prophet answered, *I have found thee because thou hast sold thy self to work wickedness, &c.* And because they set up false Worship, and persecuted, and imprisoned, and killed the Servants of the Lord: Even a curse came upon them, and their Families; and it was said, *He that dieth of* Jeroboam, *and of* Ahab, *in the City, the Dogs shall eat; if in the Fields the Fowls shall eat them:* And *Ahab* himself was slain in his Chariot, and his Blood run out, so that when the Chariot was washed the Dogs licked his Blood.

And much more might be said of several unrighteous Kings; as, *Baasha, Ahaz, Hosheas, Manasseth, Ammon*, &c. How they ran into Pride and Hautiness, and refused to walk in the Way of the Lord, but set up false Worship and drew and compelled the People to it, and very often thereby made *Israel* of old to sin; notwithstanding the Lord still sent his Prophets then to warn them; though for the same, the Prophets were persecuted, and stoned, murdered, and counted Deceivers; for which cause the Lord brought a heavy Curse, and sore Judgments upon those Kings Families, and also upon the People that joyned with them in their false worship.

Also King *Zedekiah*, he persecuted the Prophet of the Lord, and the Princes, and the false Prophets joyned with him, and the Priests would have had the Lord's Servant to have been put to death; and they counted him a Mad-man, and smote him, and put him in the Stocks, & also in Prisons, and a myerie Dungeon: So People may see how busie the Priests and false Prophets were formerly, and how directly these in our dayes tread in their steps; But what was the Wages and End of these Persecutors? Some of them were slain with the Sword, others taken Captives, and their Eyes put out, and they bound with Chains, and their Houses burnt with Fire. This was the Portion of hard-hearted Persecutors.

Again, *Nebuchadnezzer* the King was a setter up of false worship, and he granted forth Order to compel all Nations to be

of his Religion, and to bow at his Muſick and Worſhip, or elſe, they muſt be caſt into a Burning Fiery FURNACE; ſo its ſaid, *All the Princes, the Governours, and Captains, and Judges, and Treaſurers, and Councellors, and Sherriffs, and all the Rulers conformed to the Kings worſhip:* But there were three true Worſhippers, that would not conform; its very like they were called (as ſome are now) ſtubborn Fellows, and Rebels againſt the Kings Laws, and Breakers of the Peace, and will not be ſubject to the higher Powers; and its like ſome Hypocrites would be ready to ſay, *You may conform, the thing being impoſed upon you, you ſhall be clear, and the ſin ſhall be charged upon the Impoſers; or you may kneel down to pleaſe the times, and to ſave your ſelves in a way of Chriſtian prudence, and yet have your hearts true to your own Religion,* &c. But theſe true Worſhippers were of a more valiant Spirit, and told the King to his face, they were not carful to anſwer him in this matter (though in other things, as Tribute, Cuſtom, &c. they could) but they gave him to underſtand, he ſhould not be King of their ſouls and conſciences in matters of Worſhip; and they knew their God was able to deliver out of his hand; however they would not turn to be of his religion and worſhip, let him rage and heat his Furnace as hot as he pleaſed: So ye may ſee that falſe worſhip and perſecution ſtill goes together; for he cauſed his Souldiers to caſt them into the burning fiery Furnace; but what was the Wages of this Perſecutor, who ſet up that falſe worſhip? It is ſaid, he was driven from men, and did eat Graſs as an Ox, till his Hair was grown like Eagles Feathers, and his Nails like Birds Claws, to the end he might know the Moſt High ruleth in the Kingdoms of men, unto whom every ſoul is to be ſubject; for he is the higher Power, and ſouls Biſhop, who hath ſaid, *My Son give me thy Heart:* and again, *I will teach my People my ſelf, and they ſhall not depart from me:* But it might have been well for *Nebuchadnezzar* then, and others now, to receive *Daniels* counſel, who ſaid, *O King, break off thy Sins by Righteouſneſs, and thy Iniquity by ſhewing Mercy to the Poor; if it may be a lengthening to thy Tranquility.*

Again we read of *Herod* the King, how ready he was to be a Perſecutor; for no ſooner the Star appeared, and tidings came that our Saviour was born, but he was troubled, and fearing

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that Truth ſhould come up to reign, he ſent forth and ſlew all the Children that were in *Bethlehem*, and in all the Coaſts thereof from two years old and under: ſo that People may ſee how buſie the Devil hath been in all Ages, to make uſe of wicked Inſtruments, to cruſh the very appearance of that which is good; but as for *Herods* Wages, the Lord ſoon cut him off; and there is little queſtion but he had his Portion among Perſecutors and Murderers.

Again *Herod* the *Tetrach* being reproved by *John* Baptiſt for all the evil he had done, and for taking another mans Wife; he turned Perſecutor, and put the Prophet in priſon, and after cauſed his head to be cut off, being requeſted by his own unclean Companions; and its like he could ſay to *John* as ſome ſuch do at this day, when they are reproved by the Lords Meſſengers, *Thou ſawcy Fellow, meddle with thy own buſineſs; thou Deceiver and Heretick, we will take a courſe with you ſhortly; what, you would have us live without ſin, and be perfect:* And ſo People may ſee how the Servants of the Lord in all ages have ſuffered by proud corrupt men, ſuch as were Enemies of Righteouſneſs.

Again, Did not the chief Prieſts, and Elders, and Captains prove the greateſt Perſecutors our Saviour Chriſt met with? it was the Prieſts then that hunted after him, to have him murdered; And how many times did they bely him, and ſmite him on the face, and ſtoned him and his Followers, and called him Deceiver, and *Belzebub*, and ſaid he had a Devil? and was it not the Prieſts then that fawned upon the *Heathen* Magiſtrates, deſiring them to help them to crucifie Jeſus and ſought out for falſe Witneſſes to prove, as if he had ſpoken Treaſon a-*Ceſar*? and was it not the Prieſts that gave *Judas* money to be gainſt their Informer? And it was the Hirelings that gave the Souldiers money, and taught them to lye, ſaying, *Chriſt was not riſen, but was ſtolen away*: Alſo people may ſee, that thoſe Rulers, viz. *Pilate* and *Herod* that joyned with the Prieſts to put Chriſt to death, they were alſo falſe Worſhippers; ſo ſtill its evident that Blind Zeal, and Falſe Worſhip, and Pride, and Whoredom, and Covetouſneſs, and Prophaneneſs all joyns together in this work of Perſecution: but what was the Wages

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that many received? Christ told them their House was left desolate, and the Day of their Visitation was over, and called them a Generation of Vipers, saying, *How can you escape the Damnation of Hell, for ye are of your Father the Devil*, (though you call *Abraham* your Father) for you are found doing the Devils work, like your elder Brother *Cain*; and many woes he pronounced against them, which was fulfilled upon them, and upon their Families, and their Generations, as is manifest to this very day.

Stephen also was persecuted by the Priests and false Worshippers, and he bore a true Testimony against them, saying, *Ye Stiff-necked, and Uncircumcised in Heart and Ears, ye do alwayes resist the holy Spirit, as your Fathers did; which of the Prophets have not your Fathers stoned, or persecuted? and they have slain them that shewed before-hand of the coming of the Just One, of whom ye have now been the Betrayers, and Murderers*; and those wicked men also stoned holy *Stephen* to death, and cast him out of the City; terming him a Deceiver, or Blasphemer: So people may see such Priests and Professors that resist the holy Spirit, and follow an unholy Spirit; they were, and are persecutors of the Righteous.

Also it was the Priests and the Captain of their Temple, and *Sadduces*, that persecuted the Apostles, *Peter* and *John*, for preaching in the Temple; and also put them in Prison, and threatened them, commanding them to speak no more in the Name Jesus; Mark, the Priests hated him then by the Name Jesus, as bad as they now hate him, by the Name Light, in this day of his spiritual Appearance.

Again, *Herod* the King made it his business to vex certain of the Church; he killed *James* the brother of *John* with the Sword; and when he saw it pleased the Priests and *Jews*, he proceeded in his work, and took *Peter*, and put him in Prison, thinking about *Easter* time (when the People wanted some sport, and the Priests some blood to mingle with their Sacrifice and howling Prayers) then to have brought him forth, to be a Prey to those blood-sucking Wolves; but it pleased the Lord to send his Angel, and deliver his Servant out of all their hands: But this *Herod* the Persecutor was a wicked proud man, and the Angel of the

Lord smote him for his wickedness, and the Wages he received was to be eaten with Worms. Let all proud blood-thirsty men think of these things.

Again, it was the unbelieving *Jews* that stirred up the People to persecute *Paul* & *Barnabas*, & expelled them out of the Coast of *Antioch*, and also it was the Unbelievers that did the like in *Iconium*; and when the Apostles came to *Lycaonia*, and had preached, and many believed their Testimony; then those unbelieving *Jews* turned Informers, and went after them, and made an Uproar, and caused *Paul* to be stoned, and drawn out of the City near dead.

Again, when *Paul* and *Silas* was as Instruments in the hand of God to cast out of a Damsel a spirit of divination; then they that had the gain of her Southsaying, saw themselves at a loss, they, like Priests, turned Persecutors, and caused the Apostles to be beaten with many stripes, and to be put in Prison; but [mark] those men were not led by the true Spirit to persecute, but by that cursed spirit of Divination and Southsaying; so let all such at this day see who is their Leader.

Again, it was the Unbelievers at *Thessalonica*, and lewd Fellows of the baser Sort, that set the City in an uproar, and assaulted (like the *Sodomites*) the house of *Jason*, to have brought out the Disciples to have mischieved or murdered them, and they drew *Jason* (the man that had the Meeting at his House) and several Believers, before the Rulers, crying out, these that have turned the World upside down are come hither also; we have many in *England* that loves to be called Believers, rather then Persecutors: but if a Tree may be known by its fruits, let the meek in heart compare and judge.

Again *Demetrius*, and his Wicked Company, which made Silver Shrines for *Diana*, and were false Worshippers; they also persecuted the true Worshippers, crying out, *Our Craft is in danger, as also our Temple, and Goddess, whom all the World worshippeth.*

Again it was the Unbelievers, & false Worshippers that stirred up the People against *Paul*, when they found him in the Temple,

and they set *Jerusalem* on an uproar, and were about to kill him, and the Priests and false Worshippers said, he was not fit to live, and they threw dust into the Air, and the nimble fingered Priest commanded *Paul* should be smitten on the mouth; and they informed *Festus*, and *Felix*, and *Agrippa*, against him; and lest their own smooth Tongues should not lye fast enough, they got, or hired *Tertullus* to be their Informer and Orator against *Paul*: Oh they would fain have been sucking his blood; for he was the worst Enemy they had, as for spoiling their trade, and discovering their hypocrisie, and these Priests were the chief in all his Sufferings and long Imprisonments; and the Apostle shews who it was that led these Priests thus to persecute, for when he wrote to one of the Churches, he saith, *He purposed to have seen them, but at present Satan hindred*; so we would have all People see whose work they are doing that persecutes and prisons the Servants of the Lord; and again, it is written, *The Devil shall cast some of you into prison*; and so along throughout the Scriptures: And since the Apostles, through this long night that hath been over People, according to History we find good men, and true Worshippers, have been persecuted by Blind Wicked men, who were false Worshippers.

And because many in these late dayes makes it their business to insence the Rulers, and inform them against the Righteous: I have viewed over the holy Scriptures to see what root they sprang from, and whose steps they tread in.

First, I find the Devil is called the Accuser of the Brethren, he also informed against *Job*; for in those dayes the Sons of God met together, and the Devil was not pleased thereat, so he endeavoured to accuse *Job* before the Lord, and the stress of his words were to render *Job* a Hypocrite, & that he loved his Oxen and Camels, and Sheep, and things of that nature, more then he loved either God or his Religion; and if the Lord would but suffer all he had to be taken from him, then he would deny his Religion, and curse his God to his Face; so the Lord gave Satan leave to try what he could do, Then Satan went out from the Presence of God, (it was a true Saying) for no Perse-

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cutor abides in his Favourable Preſence; ſo then he drummed upon the ſpirits of the *Sabeans* and *Caldeans* [Mark, they were a wicked Stock] and raiſed them up by the Alarum of Hell; ſo they put on their Swords, and came and killed *Job's* Servants and took away his Cattel, as you may read at large; nevertheleſs *Job* ſtood firm to his Religion: And the Sons of God met the ſecond time, then the old Informer came again to the Meeting, and informed againſt *Job*, as he had done before, and deſired a greater penalty might be laid upon him, ſeeing he ſtill retained his integrity, and the Sons of God ſtill kept up their Meeting; ſo Satan deſired he might have leave to touch this Fleſh, and his Bone? you may ſee how Satan loves to cruſh the Righteous to pieces; but the Lord would not commit *Jobs* Life into his hand, only his Fleſh; See what thou canſt do Satan, with thy Stones, and with thy Whips, and with thy Stocks, and ſet thy Children to beat him, and make him ſore from the crown to the foot; and when all was done the Devil proved a falſe Witneſs, and *Job* proved a true Worſhipper, and the Lord bleſſed him, and gave him more Children and Cattel then he had before the time of Perſecution. Wherefore, Oh all ye Sons and Daughters of *Job*, ſtand faſt unto God, and to his Worſhip, and be valiant for the Truth upon Earth.

Wicked proud *Haman*, alſo he learned of his father to be an Informer againſt Gods peculier People, and told the King *That their Laws differed from his, and therefore it was not meet they ſhould have their liberty*; but he would give the King ten thouſand Tallents of Silver into his Treaſury, if the King would but give way to him to deſtroy in one day all the Lords People; and all this envy roſe in this proud *Haman*, chiefly becauſe good *Mordecai* would not get up and bow (or put off his Hat) to *Haman*; no ſooner had the King granted *Hamans* requeſt, but the Informer commands [illegible] Scribes, Lievtenants, and Governours to aid him, and [illegible]lds a Gallows, intending it for *Mordecai*; but the Lord [illegible]he King ſee *Hamans* wickedneſs, and he remembred his People that had no Helper in the Earth; and this Informer was hanged, and

his ten Sons perished, and his Estate was given to the *Jews*, and those that had thought to have spoiled their honest Neighbours in the Country; they themselves became a Spoil; and there perished of them above seventy five thousand: Let all such as have a mind of *Hamans* work take notice whose RULE they walk by, and what was the Wages of envious Murderers.

Also proud painted fac'd *Iezebel*, she was an Informer against the true Worshippers, and would have had all the Lords Prophets to have been slain, and she informed the King how he might get Estates from his Subjects, by setting up false Witnesses, so he did follow her counsel, but it soon brought a heavy Curse both upon him and his; and so will it do upon all those who after him walk in his steps: And as for *Iezebel* the Informer, for her Wages she was thrown out into the Street, and her blood troden out with Horses, and the Dogs eat her flesh; and only the Skull, and Feet, and Palms of her Hands were left. Think of this all you Daughters of *Iezabel*, who are decking your selves in Pride, and take delight to mock, and scorn, and speak evil against the Servants of the Lord.

Again, *Amaziah* the Priest turned Informer, and told the King, *That* Amos *had conspired against him*; and then charged *Amos* to be gone further from the Kings Chapel and Court, and if he would Prophesie, be gone to another Land, &c. see what an Engion of Satan this Priests was; but what Wages had he for his news? it was said unto him, *Thy Wife shall be an Harlot, and thy Sons and Daughters shall fall by the Sword, and thy Land shall be divided by line, and thou shalt die in a polluted Land.*

Again, There were several wicked men turned Informers against *Daniel*, that man so loved of God, and one that was a true Worshi[illegible] now those Informers could not find any thing agai[illegible]m, as being Disloyal, or Unfaithful in the Kings busine[illegible] therefore they got a Law to disturb him in his Worship, but this Noble man would not creep into a Hole, or shut his Windows, but even as at other times, kneel-

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ed down and prayed, and gave thanks, and worshipped the God of his Salvation; and as he was so doing the Informers came and took witness, and then went and informed the King; it may be they told him that they took *Daniel* in the Notoriousness of the Fact; and only thus, for worshipping his God, he was cast into the Lions Den, but the Lord preserved and delivered him in a wonderful manner; and then King *Darius* commanded that the Informers, with their Wives and Children should be cast into the Lyons Den; so the Lyons had power over them, and broke all their bones to pieces and devoured them; and this was the Wages of these Informers.

There was also several proud wicked men that informed against the three Children, because they would not bow to false Worship, in a day when it was attended with several sorts of Musick; but you may read in the Prophets how the Lord sorely punished that wicked stock of *Caldeans*, who were false Worshippers, and persecuted the true Worshippers; and it was of those also, that helped to kill *Jobs* Servants, and fetch away his Cattel, (about Religion) and it is also to be observed, that those men that cast the Lords People into the Fire, by the heat thereof they themselves were consumed.

Again it was an old unclean *Woman*, and her proud dancing Daughter that informed against *John Baptist*, and desired his Head; but see, *Herod* was unfit to be a Magistrate, that could swear to give them whatever could be asked; and so cut off that great Prophets head to please one of *Jezabels* Imps. Oh, how hath the Righteous in all Ages suffered by, and under such proud, lustfull, beastlike spirits, and yet the Devil still taught his Instruments in all Ages, to brand the Lords people with names of Deceivers, and Mad-men, and Blasphemers, and all sorts of bad names, thereby to render them odious; but the Truth shines over the Darkness, and the memorial of the Righteous is alive in renown; but the day is come, and coming, wherein the memorial of the Wicked shall rot, and the name of a Persecutor shall stink, and be as a Curse and a Derision.

Also

Also cursed *Judas* turned Informer, and the Priests gave him thirty pieces of Silver to betray, and help them to take *Jesus*: So they got their Clubs and Staves, and Weapons of Cruelty, and came and took him, that they might Crucifie him: and how can the Disciples of Christ expect but such as *Judas* in these days, who have betrayed all good Conscience, will likewise inform against them? but what good did the Money do *Judas*, when the horror and torment of Hell seized upon him? then he threw down the Silver, and cried, *I have betrayed Innocent Blood*; and being without hope of Mercy, went forth to hang himself, and falling headlong he burst asunder in the midst, and all his Bowels gushed out: Think of this all ye that turn Informers for filthy lucre sake; and mark whose Rule you walk by, and whose work you are doing; for its written (when *Judas* turned Informer) *then Satan entred him*; so Christ might well say then to *Judas*, and his Companions, *this is your hour and power of Darkness*.

I might even fill a large Volume, shewing, through all Ages, how it was such as were led by a wrong spirit that persecuted the Righteous; *John*, that beloved Disciple, was banished by wicked men: And those were wicked Instruments that mocked the Lords Prophet, saying, *Go up thou Bald-head*; so the Lord sent wild Bears and devoured them: And it was wicked men that persecuted *David*, and cursed him; and it was the Drunkards that made Songs of him, and beat, and stoned the Prophets: And it was such wicked men that called the Apostles Deceivers, and Ring-leaders, and Pestilent Fellows, and movers of Sedition, and Babblers; and when they were filled with the Spirit of Christ, some accused them, as being Drunkards, and Mad-men; and it was the Wicked that often times attempted to stone our Saviour, and his Messengers, calling him Blasphemer, and many reproachfull names, as we read at large in the Scriptures of Truth, and yet many that profess the Scriptures to be their Rule, and to bear the name of Christianity, are found directly walking in the steps of those wicked men, which the testimony of Scripture goes fully against, and it was wicked men that spoiled the Saints Goods formerly,

about

about Religion, and baniſhed them, and ſmote them on the Cheek, and drew them about the Streets, and pulled off their Hair; ſo I hope here is teſtimonies ſufficient concerning Perſecution, to cauſe all ſober underſtanding men and women to conclude with me, that the Root of it is the Father of Envy, and Murder, and Lyes, and that Body, and Branches through which it puts forth it ſelf, what ever their leaves may be for ſhew, yet it is but a wild degenerate Plant, of a ſtrange Vine, as is manifeſt by its Fruit, ſeeing it proves a ſowre Grape, which is to be caſt into the Wine-preſs of the fierce Wrath of the Almighty, who knows how to reſerve the Wicked for that day of puniſhment.

And I would have the Reader to obſerve how all along in the time of the Prophets, Chriſt and his Apoſtles, and ſince to this very day, the chief Inſtruments of Satan in the Work of Perſecution is, and hath been the Prieſts, and falſe Prophets, and Hirelings, with their Biſhops and Popes, and ſuch unwiſe Kings and Rulers, who opened their ears to hearken to their Whiſperings, and Lyes, and Slanders, and murdering counſel againſt the Righteous; and by hearkening to thoſe kind of Evening-Wolves, and helping them to ſuck the Blood of the Saints and Martyrs of Jeſus, how hath Kingdoms been ſhaken, and Governments overturned, them and their Families curſed, & ſo periſhed in the hot diſpleaſure of the Lord, and their memorial hath rooted, and ſtinks to this very day, as the Enemies of God, and ſo that which was written in the Second Pſalm hath been, and will be fulfilled, *Why did the Heathen rage, and the People murmur, the Kings and Princes band and aſſemble together againſt the Lord and his Truth*, ſaying, *Let us break their bands, and caſt their cords from us*; but then mark, *He that ſitteth in the Heaven ſhall laugh, the Lord ſhall have them in diriſion, and ſpeak to them in his Wrath, and vex them in his ſore diſpleaſure, and cruſh them as with an Iron Scepter, and break them in pieces like a Potters Veſſel*; and ſo this is according to that ſaying, *He rebuketh Kings for the ſake of his People, and commanded them not to touch his Anointed, neither harm his Prophets*; and wo be to them that break this Commandment.

But

But ſome will ſay, *Ought not every* Chriſtian *to obey the King?*

I ſay, Yes, in all Righteouſneſs (actively) but if any Kings command contrary to God, and make Laws contrary to the royal Law of Love and Righteouſneſs, then the Commands of God, and his Law of Truth is to be kept only, and the other witneſſed againſt (not by Plotting or raiſing Inſurrections) but paſſively, in a Lamb like Spirit, undergoing thoſe Penalties that ſhall be inflicted, until the Lord plead with the Oppreſſor, and avenge his Elect, that cries unto him night and day, and have no Helper in the Earth; and this is according to the Saying of Chriſt, *My Kingdom is not of this World, therefore my Servants muſt not fight:* And this is the Faith and Patience of Saints, to ſtand ſtill and ſee the Lords Salvation and Preſervation, whilſt they that are killing with Swords periſh, and are devoured one of another.

But ſay ſome men, *Ought you not to conform, and be of the ſame Religion that the Governours of the Land are pleaſed to eſtabliſh? And if they make a Law, to compel you thereunto; Are you not Rebels if you do not actively obey, ſeeing we have a Chriſtian King, &c?*

To which I anſwer, By this Rule, then I may not know what Religion I muſt be of next; ſeeing the *Papiſts*, and *Presbyterians*, and *Independants*, and others profeſs themſelves *Chriſtians*; and we have ſeen how one gets up after another, and every one ſets up a new kind of Worſhip, and cries, *You muſt obey the higher Power, and bow down to my Faſhion of Religion:* So if I ſhould follow mens manifold inventions, thereby I ſhould manifeſt my ſelf as a Cloud carried about with every Tempeſt of mens brains, and fooliſh conceits, and ſuch as can do ſee, I little queſtion; but rather then ſuffer deeply, they can conform to the *Turks* Alcoron, or in the end wheel about to be *Atheiſts*, and worſhip the viſible Sun,

Sun, Moon, and Stars, or fall down to *Nebuchadnezzers* Image, if there be but Muſick, &c. But he that is really a *Chriſtian* will ſtand to the Worſhip that Chriſt ſet up, which is in the Spirit and in the Truth, which is the ſame to day as yeſterday, and will remain when Popiſh Dreams and Inventions of giddy headed men will have an end; for the ſtanding Rule that Chriſt hath appointed for his People to walk by, is not a Maſs-Book, nor the Fragments thereof covered with other names; but it is the Spirit of Truth, which he promiſed ſhould lead and guide them, and that it ſhould abide and remain with them for ever: So here is the unchangeable Way, and Rule, and Worſhip ſet up by him, who is King of Kings; and this is the higher Power, unto whom the ſoul is to be ſubject; for its written, *All Power in Heaven and Earth is given unto him*; therefore let all proud fleſh tremble before him, and let none think to rob him of his Prerogative leſt they be driven to eat Graſs with *Nebuchadnezer*, and ſo be made to know, there is one will rule in the Kingdoms of men.

But ſay many People, *What do you think of the preſent proceedings againſt Fanaticks? and do you think it ſafe to ſuffer ſuch great Multitudes to meet together, and was it not time to limit them, &c?*

To which I anſwer, The greateſt Meetings that I have ſeen commonly are at the Play-Houſes, and if there be danger in a Multitude, then to be ſure they ſhould be ſuppreſt; for the Proverb ſaith, *The Wicked run together to do Evil*; but I obſerve ſuch Meetings, as are for PLAYS, and ſinging of BALLADS, though in the open Streets, are moſt ſuffered, and rather encreaſed then otherwiſe, together with Bear-baitings, Revellings, Race-runnings, and much of that nature, whereby the Lord is daily diſhonoured, and the Earth corrupted; but I hear of no Fines that are levied upon ſuch Meeters nor Houſes, nor upon thoſe open prophane Vaſſals of the Devil, who ſpend their whole time in cheating Fools of their Money, and teaching Youth to be Idle, and Wanton, and Curſe, and Swear, and ſo fit them for Baudy-houſes, and to be Theeves, and ſo in the end to the Gallows.

And as for the late Perſecution in it ſelf, I have no reaſon to believe that it is the Fruit of a right Spirit.

Firſt, Becauſe covetous Biſhops and Prieſts were the chief Founders of it, for their own filthy Lucre ſake, that ſo as Merchants of *Babylon*, they might have the whole Trade to themſelves, and alſo lord over Gods Heritage.

Secondly, Many of thoſe that gave life to it, the Nation well knows, had more need to ſit down, and repent in Duſt and Aſhes, and wait to know their own Conſciences waſhed and purged from filthineſs, then go about to ſhut up the Kingdom of Heaven againſt them that deſire to enter; and alſo to bring again into bondage ſuch who through Grace have eſcaped the the pollutions of the fleſh that is in the World.

Thirdly it makes ſad the hearts of the Righteous; but many, that are well known by their Neighbours to be Drunkards, Fidlers, Players Swearers, &c. even the worſt of men; its like a Feaſt for them; and hereby an Arrow is put into their hands to make the Righteous their Mark, and their Eſtates a continual Prey; many of theſe wicked Inſtruments bragging what they will be worth in few years; but let them remember *Judas* his End; though for a time it may be ſuffered, as in the dayes of *Malachi*, *That the proud, and ſuch as work wickedneſs, and daily tempt God may be ſet up, and counted happy, and yet delivered*; But as *Peter* ſaith, *Their Damnation ſlumbreth not; for wo be unto ſuch as go in the Way of* Cain *and* Balaam, *&c.*

Fourthly, The Law of God teacheth a man *To love his Neighbour as himſelf, and do as he would be done unto, and every one ſhall anſwer for himſelf:* But I do not believe theſe Rulers, that made this late Act would be ſerved ſo themſelves; as they have appointed to be done to others; and alſo that one man ſhould ſuffer for another, this is contrary to Gods holy Law; and therefore all Kings, Princes, and Rulers, who deſire and expect their Laws and Commands to be kept, let them be ſure themſelves to keep the Commands of God, and act and walk according to his holy equal Law of Love and Righteouſneſs; and this is the way for a Kings Throne to be eſtabliſhed, and his Family and Kingdom to be bleſſed, and to cauſe the hearts of the upright to cleave unto him, and make his dread heavy to the Workers of iniquity.

Laſtly,

Laſtly, I obſerve, that Kings and great learned men are very ready to be tempering about Religion, pulling down and ſetting up what pleaſeth their Fancies, but we ſee they are not infallible, but are often times carried away with their own high thoughts, and by lending an ear to ſuch creeping Deceivers, that ſerve not the Lord Jeſus, but their own PURSES and BELLIES; they have many fold more ſet up falſe worſhip, and cauſed People to ſin by compelling them thereunto, according to Hiſtory, then ever yet they were Bringers to the true Worſhip, or themſelves found walking in it; and through their darkneſs have perſecuted and ſlain the Lords Worthyes by many cruel Trials and Tortures, judging and condemning them as Deluders and Deceivers: Wherefore, all high and low, come to Chriſt the Light, that ſo ye may ſee over the darkneſs of mens wayes and worſhips, which are full of Envy, Strife, Perſecution, and Murder, and every evil Work; and ſo come out of them, into the new and living Way, to the living Worſhip of the true God, which is in the Mountain of Holineſs, where there is no killing nor deſtroying, but are known to be Diſciples of Chriſt, in that they love one another, Chriſt being the Authour and Defender of their Faith, which gives them victory over the World; and preſerves his Church (not by CLUBS, and DRUMS, PIKES and SWORDS, in the hands of Drunkards, and Curſers, and Mockers, &c.) upon the Rock of Life by his own eternal Arm, againſt which the Gates of Hell, the Dragons flood of malice, nor all the hoſts of the *Ægyptian* Informers, and Perſecutors ſhall not prevail: Therefore, to the higher Power, ſaith the true Church, be Glory forever.

THE END.